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# Roll call

The *Connections* newsletter likes to highlight some of the Troops to Teachers appearing in newspapers and television, but the truth is just about every veteran who chooses to serve again is worthy of some type of recognition.

This is where you can help.

Have you won an award or received some type of recognition for your work in the classroom? Let us know about it. Or if you like, do a short write up in your own words and we might run it in the next *Connections*.

Is there a school program or special group of students that you helped to accomplish some type of goal? Again, let us know about it.

Do you have a picture of yourself in the classroom? Or an anecdote about a student that inspired you? E-mail it to us.



*Navy veteran Michael Flaherty, a teacher at Jefferson-Houston Elementary in Alexandria City, Va., is one of more than 10,000 military veterans whom TTT have helped transition into teachers.*

The pages of *Connections* are for you. They're to highlight the great work you're doing, and maybe to inspire others who are thinking about teaching, just starting out in the classroom or a veteran teacher looking for some good news.

**Share your work**  
Send your photo, story or news item to the Troops to Teachers office by e-mail: [ttt@navy.mil](mailto:ttt@navy.mil).

Since 1994, more than 10,000 veterans just like you have utilized Troops to Teachers to find a second career as a public educator. You've taken the leadership, motivational and organizational

skills learned in the military, and transferred them to the classroom.

Now we invite you to share your work with the rest of the class.



## School news

# Phi Delta Kappa offers new scholarship opportunities for Troops to Teachers

Troops to Teachers participants were introduced to Phi Delta Kappa, International (a century-old education organization) in April's *Connections*, and now there is new scholarship news to share with program participants.

PDK ([www.pdkintl.org](http://www.pdkintl.org)) is offering a scholarship opportunity that many might not have been aware of. The Donovan R. Walling Family Memorial Scholarship Fund has been established for the children of currently serving or retired U.S. Army families who are pursuing careers in music or art and education.

Troops to Teachers are invited to learn more about PDK, a unique organization designed to accommodate all levels of educators for the express purpose of advocating for quality public education. With over 50,000 members worldwide, this collective voice is one of strength, honor, and heritage.

The Professional  
Association in  
Education



### On the web

PDK has created a unique page on its website for Troops to Teachers to learn more about the organization, including information on the Donovan R. Walling Family Memorial Scholarship Fund.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

## Michigan TTT earns scholarship from Western Michigan U.

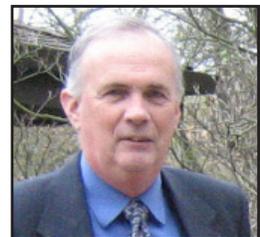
Michigan Troops to Teachers participant Larry Higdon was recognized with a prestigious commendation during ceremonies in April at Western Michigan University. Mr. Higdon was awarded the \$2,500 Neil L. and Leta C. Schoenhals Scholarship.

Mr. Higdon achieved the highest academic performance in his graduating class, and is now certified to teach Cabinet Making and Industrial Arts.

He retired from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Navy Reserve after 25 years of

service. On active duty he served as a member of the elite submarine service, and spent the remainder of his time in construction management with the Sea Bees.

He is currently teaching construction and woodwork at Casman Alternative Academy in Manistee, Mich.



## Spouses to Teachers become teachers of the year

Erin Dozier and Kristi Brecheisen have more than Spouses to Teachers in common. The program participants also share the honor of being selected their school's teacher of the year.

Mrs. Brecheisen was selected teacher of the year in 2005-06 at Hector P. Garcia Elementary in Temple, Texas, and Mrs. Dozier was selected teacher of the year after the '06-07 school year at Quail Valley Elementary in Missouri City, Texas.

Spouses to Teachers provides counseling and guidance on state-specific certification requirements, certification options, available scholarships and state employment resources. Up to \$600 also is available through a voucher process to reimburse the costs of testing fees associated with teacher certification/licensure.

Mrs. Brecheisen's husband, Jonathon, is a Chief Warrant Officer Two who was stationed at Fort Hood before recently being deployed to Taji, Iraq.



Kristi Brecheisen

Mrs. Dozier's husband, Benjamin, is a Sergeant First Class and was a recruiter in the Houston area before the couple was recently assigned to Fort Jackson in South Carolina.

Mrs. Brecheisen and Dozier are two of more than 800 Spouses to Teachers that have found teaching positions since the program's start in 2004.



**“Spouses to Teachers helped me acquisition to a new state smoothly and financially helped me get my state certification,”**  
— Erin Dozier, teacher of the year at Quail Valley Elementary.



# Hire in Advance

## Advance hiring initiative helping fill teacher shortage problem in Las Vegas

A year ago, the Clark County School District in Las Vegas hoped to use Troops to Teachers' Hire in Advance initiative to fill a growing teacher shortage.

The numbers indicate the plan is working.

CCSD is still far from having enough teachers for the 2007-08 school year, but Hire in Advance is helping. Last year, Hire in Advance brought CCSD 17 new teachers and 26 substitutes. This year, the program already has provided 36 new teacher hires and 19 subs.

The Hire in Advance Program guarantees active military members a teaching position up to three years before they separate/retire from service.



TV station KVBC featured the Hire in Advance program on a local newscast that was exploring successful teacher recruiting programs.

Dayton Rogalski, pictured left, who was one of the first to sign a Hire in Advance agreement last summer was featured. The 23-year Air Force veteran signed on with Clark County while he was still on active duty.

“One, I knew I wanted to be a teacher, and two, securing a position to do that kind of all came together at

once,” Rogalski said. “You can’t have one without the other. If there wasn’t a Hire in Advance program, I may not be a teacher today.”

### On the web

To watch the KVBC segment on the Hire in Advance program, visit Troops to Teachers' Hire in Advance page by [clicking here](#).

**17**—Number of teachers provided by the Hire in Advance program to CCSD in 2006-07.

**36**—Number of Hire in Advance teachers hired in the CCSD through the first two months of the 2007-08 school year.

In the news and on the air

## Oklahoma Marine veteran selected a “Rising Star” of teaching

In less than four years, Jeffrey Sharrock has gone from Marine veteran to one of the top new teachers in the state of Arkansas.

The Troops to Teachers participant was selected a “Rising Star Teacher” by the state of Oklahoma last month, an honor given to teachers who have five years or less of experience and have demonstrated themselves to be “extraordinary, highly effective teachers”, according to the official release. Sharrock, along with three others, were recognized as “Rising Stars” and awarded a \$500 cash prize.

The 23-year Marine veteran retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in June of 2006, and was teaching history a few months later at Wagoner High School, located about 40 miles south-east of Tulsa.

“I love teaching,” Sharrock told his hometown newspaper, The Muskogee Phoenix. “It’s nice to think my second career is off to a good start.”

Sharrock is head of the Wagoner’s social studies department and Advanced Placement program. He also sponsors the school’s academic team and its WindTalkers radio club, which tries to contact people around the world via short-wave radio.

Nearly 200 military veterans have found work as public school educators in Oklahoma with help from Troops to Teachers.

“They have excellent leadership skills, excellent classroom management skills, and they’re very goal-oriented,” Assistant State Superintendent Ramona Paul told the *Tulsa World*.



*TTT participant Jeffrey Sharrock is presented his Rising Star of Teaching award by Oklahoma’s superintendent of instruction Sandy Garrett. - Photo courtesy of Muskogee Phoenix.*

“They have excellent leadership skills, excellent classroom management skills, and they’re very goal-oriented.”

— Oklahoma Assist. State Superintendent Ramona Paul

# Connections

## Newspapers note Miss. and D.C.-area TTT

Troops to Teachers participants near the nation's capital and in Mississippi were the focus of two newspaper articles recently.

Larry Hall, a Navy veteran, has been an assistant teacher at William Ramsey Elementary School in Alexandria, Va., located just outside D.C. He was mentioned in a story in the Washington Post about retirees finding second careers.

"The number one reason I'm doing this is to help a child grow, to think, to make choices. I've always believed you teach not just academic skills but the life skills that allow them to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to the rest of their lives," Hall told the Post.

In Mississippi, the Hattiesburg American newspaper featured 26-year Navy



*Mississippi Troops to Teacher Russell Young teaches fifth- and sixth-grade Language Arts. Photo courtesy of Hattiesburg American.*

veteran Russell Young, pictured above, now a fifth- and sixth-grade Language Arts teacher at Earl Travillion Attendance Center in Forrest County.

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## Have something to share?

Do you have an opinion, story, photo, news or any other item you think would make a good addition to *TTT Connections*, the Troops to Teachers newsletter? If so, let us hear about it.

E-mail Jim Scavino at [ttt@navy.mil](mailto:ttt@navy.mil).

